

GFOASC

THE GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA NEWSLETTER



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SUMMER 2009

2009 Fall Conference

Stacey Hamm ~ Fall Conference Chair

Please join us on October 4, 2009 for the 25th Anniversary of the GFOASC Fall Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC. Mark Vitner, an economist with Wachovia, will be our keynote speaker. We have also secured Don Schunk, Quantin Chavis, Steve Blake and a wide variety of other session speakers to interest finance professionals from state and county governments to higher education. Don't miss this opportunity to earn valuable CPE credits, network with other professionals and enjoy all that Myrtle Beach has to offer.

We will kick off the conference with a Sunday night reception in the convention center. Mike Lockaby from *Partytime Entertainment* will be our DJ for the night, and he will be with us again for Tuesday's banquet with a fun surprise. Be sure to register online for the conference. Early bird rates are (\$200 for members/\$250 for nonmembers) before 09/12. The room rate this year is \$99 when booked before 09/02. If you have any questions, feel free to email us using the link on the website or call me at (803) 576-2273.

Batten Down the Hatches: Riding Out the Storm
2009 Fall Conference ~ October 4 - 7, 2009
Myrtle Beach Convention Center/Sheraton Hotel



President, Scott Ludlam, and State Representative, Karen Wicker, attended the 103rd Annual GFOA Conference June 28 – July 1, 2009 in Seattle, Washington. The theme was “Financial Strategies for Challenging Times.”

Dates to Remember:

“What You Need to Know about Changes in Governmental Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting”
August 13, 2009

Zook Scholarship Deadline
August 31, 2009

Fall Conference
October 4-7, 2009

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Scott A. Ludlam, GFOASC President

**“This is our
Silver
Anniversary! “
Happy 25th
Anniversary to
GFOASC**

We are over mid-way through our Silver Anniversary year!

We had a very successful Spring Conference on May 4th. The new location, Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, was a hit. We are now preparing for our big Silver Anniversary celebration at this year's Fall Conference in Myrtle Beach this October. Stacey Hamm, our Fall chairperson and President-Elect, will have more information for us soon.

I would like to remind those needing continuing professional education credits that in addition to the Fall Conference we also have one

remaining continuing education class to be held on August 13th, at Seawell's. The session is titled “What You Need to Know about Changes in Governmental Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting” taught by Larry Finney, CPA.

The board has discussed the possibility of adding several additional CPE classes to the schedule for 2010. We usually have three or four classes in the spring and summer, but the board is talking about scheduling as many as six CPE classes per year. We have an increased demand for the CPE classes, espe-

cially with limits on travel this past year. If you have any ideas for classes or have comments regarding the idea of adding CPE classes, please email me at Scott.Ludlam@dss.sc.gov.

I look forward to seeing everyone at this year's Silver Anniversary conference in October.

Thank you for your continued support and, as always, if you have questions or concerns, please call me at (803) 898-3987.

Best Regards,

Scott A. Ludlam

GFOASC President

2009 Continuing Professional Education Opportunities

By James Absher, Jr., CGFO, Chairman, Program Committee

The GFOASC provides as a service to its members opportunities for continuing education, and three successful and well attended opportunities have already been provided this year.

On April 3, 2009, Steve Blake, CPA presented a program titled “Auditing, The Yellow Book and Internal Control,” which provided information on the ever changing landscape of auditing standards and internal control. Mr. Blake is one of the individuals always willing to help GFOASC provide quality CPE programs.

On May 4, 2009, the Spring Conference was held at a

new location in downtown Columbia. The response was overwhelmingly positive, the presenters were very informative, and the facilities were outstanding. The day offered a chance for attendees to network with other government finance professionals while obtaining continuing education credits. I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude for all the hard work of the Spring Conference Committee in planning and executing such a great event.

On July 24, 2009, Wayne Sams, CPA, used an interactive and fun approach to

present an informative program titled “The Single Audit.”

If you missed these CPE opportunities, there are two more opportunities available before the end of the year. The continuing professional education opportunities offered by the association can be found at www.gfoasc.org. However, I would like to take a moment to mention the continuing professional educational programs already finalized for the remainder of the year. The CPE programs scheduled are:

August 13, 2009 - What You Need To Know About

Changes In Governmental Accounting, Auditing, And Financial Reporting

October 4-7, 2009 - Fall Conference

Locations and program information, including registration forms, can be found on the GFOASC website.

If anyone has any topic(s) that you would like to have addressed in a CPE program, please contact me or another Program Committee member. The committee welcomes input from members concerning topics for future CPE programs.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Jan Alonso, Scholarship Committee Chair

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to the GFOASC academic scholarship winner. The scholarship committee is pleased to announce Sherion Nichols of Wedgefield, SC as the recipient of the \$500 Founding Fathers Two Year College Student Scholarship. Ms. Nichols is currently attending Central Carolina Technical College majoring in accounting. We wish her the best.

Each year the Founding Fathers Scholarship and the Willa S. Bellamy Scholarships are offered to residents of South Carolina attending public institutions of higher education and majoring in accounting,

finance, or other business related fields.

There are certain academic requirements and milestones an applicant must achieve in order to be considered. This information is available on our website under the scholarship link. Please contact me if you have any questions. We need to get the word out to our technical colleges and other public colleges and universities that these scholarships exist and are available to finance, accounting, and business majors.

In this struggling economy it was very surprising when we received only four applications for the Founding Fathers Scholarship. Even more astounding is that we did not receive any applications for the Willa S. Bellamy scholarship.

Let's do our best to see that this information gets out in the future.

ZOOK SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

The deadline for application for the Katherine Zook Scholarship is August 31, 2009. The purpose of this scholarship is to promote the professional development of one of our members through continuing education and training. This scholarship pays for the class registration and books for the courses required to obtain the Certified Government Finance Officer certification. The application for this scholarship is also available on the GFOASC website at gfoasc.org under the scholarship link.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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2009 Spring Conference

By Kevin Yokim, CPA, CGFO, Spring Conference Chair

The 2009 GFOASC Spring Conference was held on May 4th at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. It was attended by over 200 members, speakers, and vendors. We had more vendors than we have ever had at a Spring Conference. Attendees gave very positive marks to the facilities as well as the food.

Attendees were treated to energetic general sessions led by our keynote speaker, Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter, leadership consultant Tommy Dowling, and Dr. Sonny White, president of Midlands Technical College. The break-out sessions covered a wide array of topics from the State purchasing card system, to cur-

rent national accounting issues and trends being considered by GASB and GFOA National, to the continued implementation of the state-wide accounting system.

Attendees left encouraged to continue "Raising the Standard" in difficult economic and budgetary times.

Many thanks are ex-

tended to the members of the Spring Conference committee as they spent many hours in meetings prior to the conference and as they worked hard during the conference managing the registration table, facilitating sessions and coordinating vendors.

MEMBERS APPROVE BY-LAW CHANGE

Members approved a change in the by-laws to allow the secretary to serve a two-year term rather than a one-year term. Prior to the change, the secretary was the only board position that served a one-year term. Now all elected positions, with the exception of President-Elect, will serve a two-year term. The President-Elect serves a total of three years; first as President-Elect, second as President, and third as Immediate Past President.